

David Johnson
NCSS Convention
Chicago, Illinois
November 15, 2003

SUGGESTED TOPICS TO CONSIDER IN PREPARING CONSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS FOR YOUR **Power Point** PRESENTATION

I. AMENDMENTS:

FIRST = This is the “biggie” - lots related to major rights of speech, press, assembly, religion, etc. - narrow the scope of your coverage with this one.

SECOND = Gun control issues

(THE THIRD is OUTDATED)

FOURTH = Search warrant issues

FIFTH = Entitled to a fair trial (“double jeopardy”, “due Process of law”, “grand jury”, “immunity” for testimony that may incriminate you, etc.)
Eminent Domain (the govt. cannot seize your property for public use without paying you a fair price for it)

SIXTH = Speedy trial by jury (jury selection procedure - “stacked juries”)

SEVENTH = Civil Trials (big money lawsuits - especially for consumers; or, maybe a case of “wrongful death”)

EIGHTH = Cruel punishment or excessive bail

OTHER AMENDMENTS: 11th = suing state governments; 12th = the electoral college (also in Article 2, section 1, clause 2); 13th = slavery (still in America?); 14th = segregation is illegal (“due process” and “equal protection under the law”); 15/19/26th = Voting rights extended (to race, sex, age); 18th/21st = Prohibition of alcohol and its repeal; 20/25th = Presidential succession and/or disability; 16th = Income Tax; 22nd = “Term limits”

II. OTHER (ARTICLES - rather than amendments - to the CONSTITUTION):

Impeachment (Article I: section 2, clause 5 and section 3, clause 6; Article 2: section 4)

Treason (Article III: section 3)

Piracy (Article I: section 8, clause 10)

Counterfeiting (Article I: section 8, clause 6 - however; restrict your search to “currency”)

State of the Union Address (Article II: section 3)

Tax Bills (Article I: section 7)